

JUNE EDITION



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

## CULTURAL FIRE PLAN IGNITES

Community group sparks five-year cultural burn initiative

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# Fire council ignites long term burn plan

## *Yurok fire crew trains to conduct cultural burns on tribal lands*

The planned use of fire is the most efficient and effective method for rehabilitating the region's brush-choked temperate rainforests and oak-studded grasslands.

The careful and controlled use of fire, essentially halted after European contact, dates back to the dawn of time. Yurok and other local tribes have used fire in these ecosystems to accomplish a seemingly endless list of benefits, ranging from cultivating new forage for animals to propagating strong basket materials and controlling plant pests to protecting communities from out-of-control wildfire.

A group of tireless Yurok tribal members and community members recently formed the Cultural Fire Management Council (CFMC) to put fire back into the ecosystem. The CFMC's mission is to facilitate the practice of cultural burning on the Yurok Reservation and Ancestral lands, which will lead to a healthier ecosystem for all plants and animals, long term fire protection for residents, and provide a platform that will in turn support the traditional hunting and gathering activities of Yurok.

Barely six months after the first meeting, the CFMC's effort culminated in multiple culturally focused burns in early June, totaling 40 acres near Weitchpec. The units consisted of targeted hazel patches and prairie lands.

"We want to bring our lands back into balance," said Tommy Willson Sr., Vice President of the Cultural Fire Management Council. "This is just the tip of the iceberg."

The Cultural Fire Management Council, headed by Yurok tribal member Margo Robbins, formed last year out of a Building Healthy Communities program. The BHC initiative kick started a landslide of community support and spawned a five acre burn in the same general area, yielding basket materials earlier this spring. Medicinal plants that were not growing before the fire, like mugwort, are also

coming back.

The recent fires are the first in plan to conduct carefully planned fires over five years. To put the plan in motion, the CFMC brought together the following organizations: The Nature Conservancy Fire Training Exchange, Northern California Indian Development Council, US Forest Service, Fire Storm Inc. and the Yurok Tribe.

"Restoration of the land means restoration of the people," said Margo Robbins, the CFMC President. "Returning fire to the land enables us to continue the traditions of our ancestors. We are so thankful that The Nature Conservancy brought in experts from all across the United States and even Spain, to help us carry out the cultural burns. We are also thankful that the Yurok Tribe, and the strong community support of our efforts."

The multi-agency group has experience burning hundreds of thousands of acres throughout the United States and will be training the Yurok Wildland Fire crew to independently execute controlled burns.

When conducting the culturally focused fires, Yurok tribal member and Yurok Wildland Fire Captain, Clyde Trimble, stressed that safety is the mixed-agency crew's first priority.

"There is a ton of work that needs to be done before any burning can happen," Captain Trimble said. "The most important part is having a solid plan."

Prior to putting fire on the ground, each unit is carefully surveyed and plans, which together form a larger blueprint for the whole exercise, is developed. The burn plans include pertinent information such as: a detailed map (including safety zones), the type of test fire that will be used, the number of people actually lighting fire, the formation they will be in, the direction they will move and many more crucial components.

Also, before the fire is lit, fire lines are built around the entire

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## On The Cover

The Cultural Fire Management Council ignites a five-year burn plan to reintroduce fire into the ecosystem. Cultural burns benefit forests, wildlife and people in a seemingly endless list of ways.

Yurok Wildland fire fighter Brody Richardson holds the fire line at at the CFMC's first burn.

perimeter of each area. A five-man Yurok tribal member crew, hired by Northern California Indian Development Council, and a crew boss built every inch of fire line. The fire breaks are a few yards wide and void of any kind of incendiary material.

While a controlled burn is in progress, fire fighters follow a number safety protocols to keep them and the community around the fire safe. For example, at all times someone is monitoring wind direction, relative humidity and temperature. That information is routinely passed on the burn boss, who is also monitoring the crew to make sure no is overly fatigued. Stationed around the fire breaks and with hoses at the ready, fire crew members watch closely to make sure no embers make it across the lines.

During the 9 days of burning, Captain Trimble received instruction on how to be a burn boss. His five man crew, comprised of Yurok tribal members, learned many new skills ranging from fixing water pumps and where to place fire and how to drive different fire engines to the best way to fell trees.

“The Yurok Training Exchange culture burn was great for me and my crew,” Capt. Trimble said. “This was an excellent opportunity for our crew to learn from some very talented people what it takes to implement a safe burn on a large scale.”

“This was a marriage of western science, which is only about 100 years old, and thousands of years of traditional tribal knowledge,” added Burn Boss trainee, Kurt Kause, who considered the collaboration a highlight of his multi-decade career.

For the Yurok Wildland Fire and NCIDC crews, made up of all tribal members, doing this extremely physically and mentally demanding work brings a special kind of satisfaction.

“This area needs fire,” said Tommy Willson Jr. with a smile as he headed off with a torch in his hand and a hefty pack on his back, into the nearly impenetrable brush. “I love it.”

The need for these restorative burns on the Yurok Reservation and in the surrounding area is immense. The lack of fire is the primary reason why there is very little usable hazel for making baskets. The reduction in the prudent use of fire has allowed acorn and hazel nut pest populations to explode. It is a significant contributing factor in the lack of large game because there are no fresh forbs and grasses to sustain sufficient numbers of deer and elk. Anecdotal evidence suggests these damaged and dense forests use substantially more water than a fire managed stand of mature trees, shrubs and grasses — the end result of a cultural burn. Through transpiration, it is possible that these unmanaged lands are also stealing water from fish-bearing creeks. Perhaps most importantly, the absence of the once common cultural practice is putting lives and property in jeopardy because a massive quantity of hazardous forest fire fuels has built up over the last century.

After European contact, the controlled use of fire was banned and



Firestorm fire fighter trainee Tommy Willson Jr. heads into dense brush to set fire.

most natural fires were promptly extinguished. The majority of the forests, once filled with large trees, as well as fruit and nut producing shrubs, were felled with little or no consideration of the future impacts. Nearly all of the prairies, ideal spots for elk and deer to flourish, were planted over with conifers and less commonly taken over by fir trees, which were once kept at bay by fire.

“We’ve lost 85 percent of our prairies, which sustained our deer and elk,” said Willson Sr., the Vice President of the Cultural Fire Management Council. “If we don’t take care of our land, it won’t take care of us.”

According to Willson, this problem is not just in Yurok Country. It is issue on nearly every continent. For the very same reasons, in Australia wild fires have consumed millions of acres of forests and shrub lands, claimed thousands of homes and even killed 131 people. Indigenous Australians use fire in a way very similar to how Yuroks do.

The same story is unfolding in much of Europe. Jose Luis Duce, a crew boss for Spain’s Ministry of the Environment and a participant in the Yurok fire projects, said the issues in his homeland and near by nations are practically identical to what is happening in Yurok Country. There is too much fuel and fire has been suppressed for too long.

“We are struggling with the same problems in Spain. It looks just like this,” said Duce, who is part of the Northern California Fire Training Exchange and was pointing to the dense brush behind the fire line.

The solution is the same too: extensive, prescribed fire needs to take place on an annual basis. However, federal and state governments have yet to completely come on board and fully fund groups like the Cultural Fire Management Council. In the past, the

fire agencies' only goal has been to aggressively suppress fires, even the ones that are beneficial to the environment.

While conducting prescriptive burns is costly, the practice is much less expensive than fighting a full on wildfire. For example, last year's Fork Complex fires, which took place near Orleans and threatened homes at Butler Flat, burned 21,000 acres and cost \$24 million. For a fraction of that amount the whole area could have been treated with controlled fire, eliminating the threat of a treacherous event.

The Cultural Fire Management Council, comprised of dedicated, community-minded men and women, wants to see the number of acres managed with fire expand exponentially until all of Yurok Country is restored.

"You can't finish something that you don't start," concluded Willson Sr.

### A message to basket weavers

Basket weavers can help the fires burn better with just a few small steps. The burn units have not been brought all the way back to the 'maintenance' stage and there are thousands of acres needing this treatment, according to Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, Bob McConnell. One or two more 'entries' (a Firestorm term) is needed before it can be said the forest has reached the state it was in before fire suppression. Basket weavers can help (when they pick sticks) the effort by putting the dead hazel from this burn on the forest floor, and by trimming low limbs and scattering them about, which will help to carry fire during the next entry. The maintenance stage is reached when mechanical manipulation is not needed for fire to carry throughout a burn.

"There is much work to be done, but I see the desire to make it happen in the makeup of the Cultural Fire Management Council," McConnell said.

*The Yurok Wildland Fire crew is comprised of all Yurok tribal members including: Captain Clyde Trimble, Firefighters Marty LameBear, Mike Obie, Andy LameBear, Brody Richardson and Talbert Alvarado. The Yurok tribal members hired by NCIDC to receive fire training and build fire lines include: Rick O'Rourke, Merk Robbins, Daniel "Sonny" Ryles and Tommy Willson Jr.. ❄*

## 2014 BRUSH DANCE DATES

Sregon Brush Dance	July 10- July 13
Mattz/Brooks Weyhl-kwel Brush Dance	July 17- July 20
Weitchpec Brush Dance	July 24 -July 27



## LANA MCCOVEY WINS SOUTH DISTRICT SEAT

A special run-off election to fill the South District seat, left unoccupied after the untimely passing of the late, longtime Councilmember, Bonnie Green, consisted of Lana McCovey and Gerald Green. McCovey received 143 (56.3%) and Green received 111 (43.7%). The election results were certified on May 7, 2014. McCovey officially took her seat on the Tribal Council on May 28, 2014, following her installation. ❄

# Immersion program succeeds in public school

*Partnership between Tribe/school district is the only one in the US*

Every night, around the dinner table, Toni Peters learns new Yurok words and phrases from her kids.

Peters, a Yurok tribal member, has two children, Lillian, 7, and Nathaniel Nix-Peters, 5, who participate in the Yurok Language Immersion Program at Weitchpec Yurok/Magnet Elementary School.

“I learn from them everyday,” Peters said. “I think it is awesome that the kids are learning and speaking the language.”

The Immersion Program is a partnership between the Yurok Tribe and Weitchpec Yurok/Magnet Elementary, a K-3 public school within the Klamath Trinity Joint Unified School District.

The language program, which is the only one of its kind within a public school system in the US, is part of the Yurok Tribe’s far-reaching initiative to restore the Yurok language, which linguists predicted would go extinct. Today, Yurok is taught in several public schools and community classes open to all. The largely successful effort has resulted in more 70 conversational speakers — considerably more than there were 10 years ago — and hundreds of new language learners.

The goal of the Immersion Program, which serves all students at the school, is to cultivate fluent and literate Yurok language speakers and writers. Immersion is absolutely the most efficient way to learn a language.

“The policy of this program is language preservation,” Yurok Language Coordinator and Yurok tribal member, Carole Lewis. “We want the kids to know this: ‘You can be fluent in your native language.’”

Only two generation’s ago, in Peters’ parent’s era, Yurok children the same age as Lillian and Nathaniel, were abducted by federal agents and shipped away to government-run boarding schools, where they were physically, psychologically and emotionally abused for speaking Yurok. In an attempt to “kill the Indian and save the man”, the boarding schools took Native American children from Hawai’i to Maine and are responsible for vanquishing many indigenous languages.

“For my parents, Yurok was essentially a foreign language because of the boarding schools,” Peters said.

For Lillian, school in general, and learning Yurok in particular, in an educational institution partially paid for by the very same government that tried to forcefully take the language away, is something that brings her great joy.

“It’s fun to learn Yurok,” said Lillian, who also participates in afternoon language classes taught by Lewis. “It is my favorite class. I am learning a lot.”



Rian Tracy, Rachel Rakestraw and Naomi Bennett learn Yurok at Weitchpec/ Yurok School.

After two year’s of study, the immersion students are beginning to speak Yurok effortlessly and without a prompt from the teachers.

“The students have a solid Yurok vocabulary and they’re beginning to speak the language automatically, which is one of the main goals of our program,” said Annelia Hillman, an Immersion School teacher and Yurok tribal member. “The trick is reinforcing it. If the kids are encouraged to speak the language at home and in the community, it will amplify what we are doing in class. Application and repetition is the key.”

Becoming literate in a language means much more than recognizing what letters sound like, how to form them into words and putting those words into a grammatically correct sentence. Language is about place, culture and, most importantly, identity.

“Our cultural and traditional knowledge is encoded in our language, it defines our world view.” Hillman said.

The Yurok language classes begin at lunchtime when teachers and staff incorporate Yurok words into activities during the midday break. The immersion classroom classes consist of health, geography, social science, life science, art and sometimes a blend. For example, the kids are taught the Yurok names of culturally important flora, how to identify the plants and their phrenology. The kids then draw the plants in detail, a practice called scientific illustration, to better commit the information to memory.

One of the things that make the Yurok Immersion Program so productive is its roots in Yurok culture. Culture is something the students are already interested in and it provides a context from which they can practice and retain words, phrases and grammar rules.

The immersion program, which is in its second year, draws kids from as far away as Orleans, Ca.

“This is the only place where culture and language are taught in the classroom,” Shoanna Case, a parent of student Rian Tracy. “There is a really strong community support.”

A large body of research validate the fact that the immersion method is the most effective way to teach children in this age range, which are in the middle of a prime window to integrate a second language into their vernacular. Incorporating a second language comes more naturally when children are still developing their cognitive skills and social awareness, according to numerous peer-reviewed studies.

“Immersion students who begin the program as English speakers consistently develop native-like levels of comprehension, such as listening and reading skills, in their second language. They also display fluency and confidence when using it,” according to Tara Williams from the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition.

Immersion language programs, according to hundreds of studies in Canada, New Zealand and the United States, also increase a child’s ability to succeed in seemingly unrelated subjects and life in general.

“Studies have shown repeatedly that (second) language learning increases critical thinking skills, creativity, and flexibility of mind in young children. Students who are learning a (second) language out-score their non-second language learning peers in the verbal and, surprisingly to some, the math sections of standardized tests,” said Therese Sullivan Caccavale, president of the National Network for Early Language Learning.

Students in Yurok immersion class are showing signs that the same thing is happening at Weitchpec Yurok/Magnet Elementary School. Learning the language is expanding the grammar school-age kids’ ability to think analytically and their nimbleness of mind, both requirements for

academic success.

“I think it does because it helps Rian think in a different way,” Case said.

Immersion programs, tied to traditional cultures, have proved to significantly boost high school graduation rates too. For example, in New Zealand’s Moari immersion schools, student pass rates went from 5 and 15 percent, which they were at for decades, to 75 percent. The same positive change is occurring in Yurok Country, where students feel more comfortable in schools where the culture is valued.

“We have witnessed better school attendance from the Yurok high school students that are enrolled in Yurok language courses,” said Jim McQuillen, Education Department Director. “We also hear directly from Yurok students who feel more adjusted and more connected to school now that Yurok is offered at most of the comprehensive high schools within Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.”

In order to ensure all immersion class students are on the path to academic success, the immersion school incorporates and reinforces state standards for all subjects including math and English into its curriculum.

The partnership between the Yurok Tribe and Klamath Trinity Joint Unified School District has received a groundswell of community support and is seen a solid step toward righting historic wrongs. The River Schools Principal, Matt Malkus is also vocal proponent.

“It’s not just right — it’s the way it should be. The kids on the river deserve to learn their language and about their culture in the classroom,” Principal Malkus concluded.

***The Yurok Tribe received a Language Preservation and Maintenance grant from the Administration for Native Americans, which will fund the Immersion Program for three years. The Program just finished its second year of providing high quality language education to Weitchpec Yurok/Magnet Elementary School students. ✨***



## Q and A with Employee of the Month, Council Support Assistant **Georgianna Gensaw.**

1. ***How long have you been working for the Tribe?*** I have worked for the Tribe since 2004. I took a year and half break, but I came back and I have worked for Council Support since 2009.
2. ***Why did you decide to work for the Tribe?*** For me it was natural decision, I grew up with my Dad sitting on Tribal Council and I grew up being taught to, “give back” all the time and in every capacity of my life. Attending meetings was also a huge part of life so it just made sense. My dad had a lot of respect for Cindee and Tara, I could tell by the way he talked about them. I wanted to be a part of that team.
3. ***What is the most satisfying part of your job?*** No two days are the same, the Tribes is growing so fast. It’s really neat to be a part of something bigger than just myself or my job. I watch my Tribal Council make some really difficult decisions, but I also see the great pride they take in making a better future for all of us.
4. ***How does your position serve the tribal membership?*** I serve the Tribal membership by assisting them with their Tribal Council information. Council meetings minutes will be online here soon so that will be super beneficial to all Members. I also try to answer my phone and call people back. At the end of the day we are here for Tribal members.
5. ***What do you like to do outside of work?*** I am a mama! And a wife! I love being with my family. Right now my little family is learning to pole fish, (because we are net fishermen) it’s a very different, but we are having a blast. I also am a community organizer for the Un-dam the Klamath River campaign. ✨

# Education Dept. helps Yurok graduates

## • Stories submitted by Yurok Education Department

In May 2014, Anna Krupp graduated with a Masters in Secondary Education from University of Nevada-Reno. Prior to that, Anna earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature in 2005. Anna's grandfather, Haynes Moore was from Sregon and her grandmother Violet Moore, comes from Pecwan and Big Lagoon. Her mother Vivian grew up with her sisters and brother on Moore Hill and in Hoopa.

Anna is a first generation college student and read "voraciously" in order to get through college and loves learning new things. One of her favorite courses and one that she will miss the most, is Interdisciplinary Studies. She looked forward to this class and collaborating with her classmates and sharing their experiences. Some of the best years of her life have been her college years. She said she will treasure that experience always. College was a time to meet new people, learn new things, experience life, and find out about herself.

Some of the greatest challenges Anna encountered while attending college was time management. It was difficult to find time for class, homework, work, family responsibilities and commuting.

Anna's plans for the future is to continue to work full time, teaching English, and in addition to spending time with her family, she hopes to do some writing in the future. Her boys are 11 and 7 months, so Anna is excited to spend quality fishing time with them

Cheyenne Sanders earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in American Indian Studies and Political Science from the University of Washington in Seattle. She chose American Indian Studies because of her love for the subject material. She chose Political Science because of her love of politics and she found the classes challenging.

On May 11, 2014 Cheyenne Sanders graduated from Cornell University Law School with a Juris Doctor (JD) with a concentration in Public Law. Her father is Daniel Sanders who raised her as a single parent after her mother passed away when Cheyenne was only 4 years old. As a single parent, her father has always been her main source of support and encouragement. He set a high bar for her academically and taught her the values of spirituality, family, and culture. Even though she lived in Seattle, her father always filled their bookcases with Yurok language books and made sure she visited Klamath annually. Cheyenne grew up with pride in her culture which led her to have a passion in Federal Indian and tribal law.

this summer.

When asked how Anna feels her earning power for herself and her family will improve now that she has graduated with a Masters Degree, she stated her salary will move up on the salary schedule having earned an advanced degree and this will help her family financially in the years to come.

Anna received her support for what she is doing with education from her parents, husband, brother, and her boys. She said they were always there for her when she needed help. The University of Nevada, Reno also had programs especially for first generation college students, such as herself. They were able to assist with logistical and emotional support when she struggled during her first year of college as an undergraduate.

Her advice for others who wish to attend college is to apply for financial aid and spend as much time possible searching for scholarships and grants. The scholarship she received from the Yurok Tribe's Higher Education Program was helpful and covered some of the costs of her books, but not all costs. Anna encourages students to persevere, even if college seems challenging at first, just keep putting in effort and it will pay off. Hard work may take time to pay off, she said, but inevitably, it does pay off.

She wants to thank her parents, brother, husband, Hayden and Koda for their support and love. "I couldn't have done it with them," she says. ✨

When asked what she has done to prepare for college, she stated she always looked for opportunities to network and learn from leaders in Indian Country. Throughout undergraduate school, she balanced being a full-time student with work and a volunteer position or unpaid internship. The experience and connections she made through her internships proved to be invaluable as she worked towards law school. Cheyenne also took advantage of Native American or minority programs in her field of study. She participated in George Washington University's Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP), American University's Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) Program, John Marshall Law School's Pre-Law Summer Institute, and the Pre-Law Summer Institute at the University of New Mexico School of Law. All of these programs, she said, were free and provided her with amazing opportunities.

When Cheyenne was applying to law school, she never thought she would be accepted to an Ivy League law school such as Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York. Not only was she accepted, she

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# 2014 SALMON RUN



PHOTO BY MONIQUE SONOQUIE



PHOTO BY MONIQUE SONOQUIE



The 2014 Salmon Run went from the mouth of the Klamath all the way to Iron Gate Dam, hundreds of miles in total. **Un Dam the Klamath**



Jose Luis Duce, a crew boss from Spain's Ministry of the Environment, helped conduct burns on the Yurok Reservation.

# Klamath Salmon Festival

Sign up for the Noo-rey-o-won-ee (Beautiful girl inside and out)/ Keet-ko (Strong/Able boy) Contest

• Formerly known as the Pretty Girl/Young Warrior Contest

## SAVE THE DATE

52nd Klamath Salmon Festival  
Saturday, August 16, 2014



To sign up contact Sascheen Bowen at 482-1350

Contestants Must:  
 Advertise raffle and contestant by poster;  
 Not be married, have children, or living with a cohabitant;  
 Sell a minimum of \$250 in order to place/receive a percentage of the proceeds.  
 Contestants/Parents are required to participate in the construction and preparation of the Salmon Festival

All tickets must be turned in by Friday, AUGUST 8, 2014 at 12:00 noon

# 2014 YUROK TRIBE ELECTION NOTICE

TO ALL YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS WHO WOULD  
LIKE TO RUN FOR THE:

**NORTH DISTRICT  
REQUA DISTRICT  
WEITCHPEC DISTRICT**

Any Yurok Tribal members that are interested in running for Election as a District Representative for the Yurok Tribal Council, may pick up Nomination papers beginning **June 16, 2014**, at the Yurok Tribal Office in Klamath.

All Candidates must be 25 years of age as of October 8, 2014. There is a \$25 filing fee due when you pick up the Nomination forms.

The Nomination Period closes **July 18, 2014**.

For More Information, Please call the Election Office at (707) 482-1350.

### Sanders continued from page 7

also received a very generous scholarship. She could not pass up the opportunity to go to a school with such a strong academic reputation.

Her greatest experience at college has been her involvement in Cornell's Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) teams at the National NALSA Moot Court competition. The competition asks students to prepare a mock legal argument on a specific issue of Federal Indian Law. At the competition, the students compete against other NALSA teams from across the country during oral arguments. She says it was a great way to research a specific area of Indian law as well as meet other Native law students.

One of her greatest challenges while attending Cornell Law School was being so far away from home and family. She was away from home during the most academically and emotionally challenging times of her life. Many of her classmates came from very different backgrounds and it was challenging for Cheyenne to have a sense of "belonging" in classrooms full of privilege, wealth, and strong pedigree. She often times found herself being the only person in the room willing to defend aspects of law that many Yuroks rely on, such as the Indian Child Welfare Act, or key Supreme Court cases such as *Morton v. Mancari* (a United States legal case about the constitutionality, under the Fifth Amendment, of hiring preferences given to American Indians within the Bureau of Indian Affairs). She understands what a privilege her education is and what a strong tool it will be for her future. While she will not look back on the past three years as relaxing or fun, she will remember that she successfully endured tremendous levels of self-doubt and academic challenge. She realizes today the lessons, skills, and opportunities Cornell Law School will continue to provide for her.

Following graduation, she returned home in Seattle to study for the Washington State Bar Exam. She has a few job offers that she is

considering which are all in the field of Indian law and policy. Having a JD will open up many doors in terms of employment opportunities not only as an attorney but also in many high-level policy positions. She has loans to pay back and with her JD is confident she will have the means to pay back the loans and provide for her family.

When asked about the Yurok Tribe's higher education scholarship, she stated she rarely was able to receive financial assistance from the tribe as a law student before funding ran out. She received more assistance from the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) and highly recommends American Indian graduate students contact AIGC for scholarship opportunities.

As a child growing up, she understood the power of education as a means to financial security. She decided she wanted to go to law school while she was still in high school and understood she needed to start working towards that goal during that time in order to have a means to achieve it. With the support of her family and friends, she started building her college application by taking challenging courses, volunteering, and taking on leadership roles in her community.

Cheyenne's recommendation for other students who wish to attend college: "Set high goals for yourself, take advantage of opportunities that come your way, and don't be discouraged by failure. Wherever your journey takes you, remember to take all of you along the way. Don't feel that you have to lose your language, culture, or identity to fit in with what dominant society wants you to be...rely on the strength of our elders who have taught us so much, and always have pride in where you come from. There will be many people eager to help you on your journey".

Finally, Cheyenne thanks her family who has been instrumental in her success. Additionally, she wants to also thank two Native women who have been great role models and mentors: Mary Wilber and Iris Friday. ✘

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Meredith Richno is a former Adult Vocational Training (AVT) student enrolled in Absolute Safety Training, Inc. for Paramedic School. She completed the program in February 2014 and received a certificate as an Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic.

Meredith is a first generation college student. After graduation from high school, Meredith attended Chico State. However, she ended up getting married, having children, and was unable to finish college during that time. She took a few college classes at a junior college and online to help with accounting to run her own business in Radio Communications. During that time, she began working on the local ambulance part time and took the needed classes for an EMT 1 and also returned to school to become an EMT 2. She ended up working full time for the local ambulance company for over and it was at that point she decided to go back to school for additional paramedic training. She worked on an ambulance for over 15 years.

Meredith drove 3 hours one way for class each week. The courses she enjoyed most for Paramedic Training was Anatomy, Legal Ethics, and Math.

Meredith's father is ¼ Yurok from the village of Weitpus. Meredith is now divorced and has two children ages 21 and 16. Attending school while working full time and raising her children as a single mom, can be very difficult. The AVT scholarship she was awarded was able to ease that burden greatly.

Although the ambulance company she worked for has closed, she is now working full time as the Diabetes Coordinator for Strong Family Health Center contracted with Indian Health Services. At this new job, Meredith has received 3 raises in 9 months and is hopeful things will get better financially. She doesn't earn as much as she did while working on the ambulance and she has to travel 84 miles round trip to work.

When asked about the financial support she received from the Yurok Tribe for her education, words cannot describe how appreciative she is to have received this financial support. She is extremely grateful that she was awarded \$7,000 for the AVT scholarship.

“Do it while you’re young”, she recommends to students who wish to attend college. “It’s very tough but attend class and complete your

program. If you want it, work for it”, is her advice.

Meredith is thankful that her parents and other family members helped her with her children, and thanks her children for putting up with her being gone so much. She is also grateful for the Yurok Tribe’s Education Department for the AVT scholarship that helped cover much of the cost of the Paramedic program. ✨

# Yurok wins highly competitive scholarship

## *College award pays for everything through Ph.D program*

Yurok tribal member Brook Thompson often times sees the letters of a word and even words in a sentence in the wrong order, but that didn’t stop the high school senior from earning an A in AP English.

In fact, despite suffering from dyslexia, a neurological disorder that makes reading and writing substantially more difficult, Thompson achieved essentially all A’s in every class throughout four years of high school, earning a 4.0 GPA. However, that’s not what enabled Thompson to obtain a highly competitive scholarship that will pay for every college expense until she finishes a Ph.D — if she decides to pursue one.

In addition to being knowledgeable about her culture, the student-athlete is a skilled musician, summer camp counselor and constant community volunteer for both tribal and non-tribal, social change organizations. Thompson has also had to overcome hurdles associated with poverty and alcoholism in her family. All of the above is what won the highly motivated Yurok teen a Gates Millennium Scholarship.

“When I received the Gates Scholarship my mind went blank. It was so hard to contemplate that everything would be paid for,” Thompson said. “And then there was this feeling that I could do anything and it lasted all day. After that, it was relief, which I feel even now.”

Yurok Education Director Jim McQuillen nominated the extremely bright young Yurok, a past Education intern, for the Gates Scholarship.

“I nominated Brook because of her strong work ethic and her desire to retain the Yurok culture and language,” McQuillen said. “I saw this in Brook over the years as she worked in the JOM camps as a peer counselor and as an intern in the Yurok Education Department. She is an individual who deserves the economic investment in her education and I believe she will bring a big return on the investment. I am proud of her and her accomplishments.”



Yurok tribal member Brook Thompson won the Gates Millennium Scholarship

Thompson goes to Franklin High School, a well-funded public school in Portland that offers special programs, such as the Law and Public Policy Program and the World Language Institute. She visits her ancestral homeland every time she has a break longer than four days and for the entire summer to visit her family and connect with her culture

“It’s important to me. I feel more connected to the Tribe,” said the granddaughter of Aawok Archie Thompson. “Of course, I fish for salmon too.”

When Aawok Archie Thompson, who was one of the last to speak Yurok as a first language and passed away in March of 2013, was still alive, Thompson would spend time with him learning the language. The two would go on walks and he would teach her the names of things seen along the way and they would have “small conversations” in Yurok.

“It makes me proud to know the language,” Thompson said.

While Thompson has a strong drive and determination to succeed academically, the well-rounded teen also puts equal effort into being a contributing member of her community, working toward fixing social and environmental problems in Portland. To maximize her effort and to have fun while doing something positive for others, she started Giving Club.

“Our mission is to fight poverty while supporting sustainability in the Portland area,” Thompson said.

In 2013-2014, Giving Club completed a number of activities aimed at bettering the lives of those most in need of help. For example, Giving Club’s members held a winter blanket and sock drive and raised money to buy lice shampoo for the homeless. They delivered the items to those living on the streets of Portland. The group also acquired funds for organizations that feed hungry children and volunteered at the ReBuilding Center, which offers reclaimed and salvaged home building materials at affordable prices.

Thompson enriches her community here too. She teaches, through Gateway Education, kids how to survive in the woods without the help of modern amenities. At the Gateway camp, the preteens and teens learn how to stay overnight in the forest with nothing but the clothes on their back. After the youthful participants complete the outdoor education courses, they leave with a number of life-saving skills, such as how to navigate in the woods, how to start a fire with a bow drill and how to make a sturdy shelter.

When the highly motivated tribal member is not studying or volunteering, Thompson is polishing her trumpet playing, participating on the basketball and tennis teams and racing in a dragon boat. On the hardwood she plays guard. She is a paddler on dragon boat racing team. A dragon boat is an ancient watercraft, originating from southern China, modified

in modern times and powered by a dozen paddlers. The jazz and Indy rock lover has played the trumpet for almost a decade. She recently picked up the ukulele, a Hawaiian instrument resembling a small guitar with four strings, instead of six.

“My parents gave me the ukulele. It looked fun to play on the internet,” Thompson said. “I learned how to play 50 songs from YouTube.”

After Thompson graduates high school, the young Yurok will go to Portland State University Honors College, a cutting-edge educational institution that offers “an academically intense curriculum that reflects all the challenges, uncertainties and deep thinking real world problems require,” according to the school’s website.

Thompson plans on studying civil engineering. After that, she may go to graduate school and then enter a doctoral program, either in Portland or somewhere else. The Gates Scholarship, which will pay for it all, has given her many options she did not have before. After Thompson is finished with her education, she wants to do work that benefits the planet.

“Eventually, I want to help the environment,” Thompson said.

It is clear the sober minded teen already knows a lot about what is causing the ecological imbalances witnessed the world over. The three top environmental issues in her opinion include: carbon emissions, consumerism in general and a lack of awareness about human impact on the earth.

“So many things are sold to us that break easily and contain toxins that poison us in the process,” Thompson said.

In addition to winning the Gates funding, Thompson received several additional scholarships and awards from other institutions, including: three scholarships from Portland State University, Beat the Odds Scholarship, Horatio Alger Association Scholarship and the Jim Thorpe Spirit Award for sportsmanship. Since the Gates funding pays for everything, she will be giving the scholarships back.

“I hope they go to another kid,” Thompson concluded. ✨

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***“I NOMINATED BROOK BECAUSE OF HER STRONG WORK ETHIC AND HER DESIRE TO RETAIN THE YUROK CULTURE AND LANGUAGE.”***

**• Yurok Education Director Jim McQuillen**

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# Court starts program to heal DV offenders

*Skuy-Ech-Son', a culturally centered program, aims to break the cycle of violence*

Hello, my name is Glenn. I have been abusive and I am responsible for my thoughts, feelings and actions. I am feeling emotionally stressed right now. I have been thinking about my family, my relationship and bills. I've been thinking about this group. I've had no need for timeouts and haven't broken any agreements. I'm contracting for time to work on an anger elevator. I spent all of Sunday with my daughter, Shayna. She's 3. It was the first whole day, supervised visit with Shayna. We had a great time hanging out at the river. I missed her so much when I was locked up.

The knots in my neck are starting to loosen up and the ache in my back from the fight is going away. Turns out, not using drugs makes a guy's pain more bearable. My baby's momma— I mean Betty — is still in the hoosegow. A friend of mine, who just got out of county saw her the other day and told me Betty was obviously still using. Hearing this made me appreciate my six months of sobriety even more. I have sent Betty a couple letters, but have yet to receive a response. I truly regret blackening her eye and choking her unconscious, but I don't feel good or bad about her not wanting to be together anymore. Accepting that is what enabled me to be here today. That's my check in.

Glenn is not a real person. His check-in, however, is representative of what Lori Nesbitt and Ron Bates hear regularly during roundtable discussions they lead for tribal members who have committed spousal or intimate partner abuse, want to take accountability for their actions and change their lives. Recently, Nesbitt and Bates, both veteran facilitators, started the Skuy-Ech-Son' (We heal) Program, a 52-week minimum, culturally and accountability-based alternative to court mandated and/or private counseling for both male and female perpetrators of domestic violence.

"Domestic violence is a cycle. It is taught by one generation to the next," said Nesbitt, who is a Yurok tribal member. "There is a high rate of domestic violence going on within the tribal membership. Skuy-Ech-Son' is anchored in Yurok traditions and aims to end the cycle of violence."

The check-in enables a person to become aware of the difference between a thought and action. The introduction is also a reminder of things the participant is working on. It also helps identify physical clues associated with stress.

The Skuy-Ech-Son Program, an initiative of the Yurok Wellness

Court, serves both men and women, who are mandated by the court or volunteer to sign up. The goal of the program is to help its participants cultivate balanced relationships and live in way that is consistent with the Tribe's traditional values.

The superior courts in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties as well as the Hoopa Tribe are working with the Wellness Court to place, as part of their sentencing agreements, Yurok people into the program. The Yurok Wellness Court is an expression of the Tribe's sovereignty and culture. The traditional justice system enables Yurok people to reclaim control over their destiny and live a way that is more in line with the Tribe's values. The court has grown exponentially over the last five years and now offers many services, some of which include: placing addicts in rehabilitation programs, providing a path for reformed tribal members to clean up old criminal records, a full-time self help attorney to help tribal members with legal issues, and a child support program facilitated by an attorney.

"This is another way that we are bringing Yuroks into our traditional justice system," said Yurok Chief Judge, Abby Abinanti. "I believe this program has the potential to help people end this painful cycle, which impacts the whole community."

Nesbitt and Bates recently finished an intensive, one-year batterer's intervention training in only six months. The rigorous courses were put on by M.E.N.D./W.E.N.D, which has more than 25-years of experience in developing programs designed to rehabilitate perpetrators of domestic violence. Much of the M.E.N.D./W.E.N.D approach is universal. To make it work better for Yurok people, a weighty "Native, Identity-based Cultural Intervention" section was added to the curriculum and reflects Yurok, Karuk and Hupa traditions. Chris Peters, a Yurok tribal member, who runs Red Deer Consulting, created the cultural awareness portion.

"The cultural component will help people know where they come from and how they got to the present," said Bates, who is also a Yurok tribal member. "We are going to explore each person's cultural identity. We will examine how Yurok families functioned prior to European contact as well as the many other traditional aspects of relationships."

To achieve this, participants are encouraged to seek out their elders and culturally knowledgeable family members to make a family tree including a description of each relative, including the

person's lasting, romantic relationships.

Participants in the Skuy-Ech-Son' Program meet once a week for two hours. The classes are split up between genders. During the year-long program, the topics Skuy-Ech-Son' covers in addition the cultural element are broad and deep.

For example, the program will help participants identify how anger elevates into action, by what method is best calm down before a situation escalates and by what means negative behavioral patterns are broken. Participants will learn what triggers are, how to resolve complicated interpersonal conflicts and about the role of male privilege in domestic violence. Furthermore, Skuy-Ech-Son' focuses on the following: what constitutes domestic violence, how to communicate complex emotions, the benefits of empathy, the physiological cues associated with stress and anger, the importance of personal responsibility, what a healthy relationship consists of, when to walk away from an unhealthy situation and much more.

As with counseling mandated by state courts, there is fee for participating in Skuy-Ech-Son', but it is a sliding scale and can be paid with money or community service.

Even though the Skuy-Ech-Son is very new, people are already signing up.

"We've already had people volunteer to participate in the program because they no longer want to hurt their partner and they don't want to pass on the cycle of violence to their children," Nesbitt concluded.

To sign up for Skuy-Ech-Son call Lori Nesbitt or Ron Bates at (707) 482-1350.

*The Northern California Tribal Court Coalition (NCTCC) funded the M.E.N.D./W.E.N.D. training and the cultural curriculum. ✧*

# Is it time to get a new card?

Amanda Donahue

## Social Security District Manager

To help combat the rising threat of fraud and identity theft, Social Security will no longer issue Social Security number print-outs beginning in August 2014. If you need written confirmation of your Social Security number—perhaps your new employer needs verification—and you can't find your Social Security card, you can apply for a replacement.

But do you really need a replacement? In most cases, you don't need your card as long as you know your number. For all intents and purposes, your number is your card. Usually providing your number and identifying information is enough.

In the event you really do want or need a replacement card, either for yourself or for a child, you can find all of the details you need at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber). The "Social Security Number and Card" page provides information on how to obtain a replacement card and what specific documents you need to provide.

Need a Social Security card for your new baby to claim him or her as a dependent on your tax return or to apply for government or social service benefits? In most cases, an application for your newborn's Social Security card and number is taken in the hospital when you apply for your baby's birth certificate. If not, you can request one for your child the same way you do for yourself.

Whether you need a Social Security card for yourself or your child, it's easy—and free—to apply for one. But consider whether a new Social Security card is really in the cards for you. It may be that your "card" is already with you—in your head.

While you're at our website, open your free my Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). It can help you plan for retirement, check your earnings history, request your Social Security Statement, and more.

**Learn more about your Social Security card and number at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ss-number](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ss-number). ✧**

## SAVE THE DATE

**The 2014 Annual Tribal Membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2014.**



### YEDC RV and CAMPING RULES

The Yurok Tribe and YEDC have adopted the following rules and regulations to promote your safety and overall enjoyment of the YEDC RV Resort. These rules will be enforced by the Camp Host (s), other tribal personnel, and Yurok Tribe Public Safety Offices.

1. The park's management and staff shall be treated in a respectful manner. Guests are also expected to behave in a respectful way toward other guests.
2. Never dispose of any items in the river that does not naturally come from the river.
3. Adult supervision is required for all children and pets.
4. Feeding and caging wildlife is not allowed.
5. All pets must be contained and on a leash. Guests are required to pick up after their pets and dispose of all debris in waste container.
6. Personal property must be stored inside and or covered in an orderly way.
7. Trash must be contained in a tied off bag and properly disposed of in a proper receptacle. Trash may never be stored outside your RV or Tent.
8. Quiet hours during fishing season are between 10 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.
9. It is the guest's responsibility to obey all Tribal and Local laws, while staying in the park.
10. All motorized off road vehicles must only be used on designated roads, in a quiet and appropriate manner. Off road vehicles cannot be used in YEDC's RV Parks.
11. YEDC RV Parks are **drug free zones**. Illegal drugs and or paraphernalia are not allowed in parks under any circumstances and violators will be escorted off site. Violations of this policy will result in termination of camping privileges in all YEDC RV Parks.
12. Altering any utilities access, site connection, or natural barrier is strictly prohibited.
13. Please use the paved and gravel driveways, do not drive over grass and/or landscaping.
14. Non-working and non licensed vehicles are not allowed in park.
15. **Firearms** of any kind are **not to be displayed or discharged** anywhere on RV Park's property.
16. One (1) trailer and one (1) tent per camp site or two (2) tents per camp site. This does not include a tent for cooking.
17. Two (2) vehicles per camp site. An EXTRA Vehicle (More than 2) requires a FEE: \$3.00 per day, per each extra vehicle.
18. Vehicles of non-campers are not allowed in the RV Park.

**Any guest or visitor who does not adhere to all rules may be asked to leave the park immediately. No refunds**

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Site# \_\_\_\_\_



### YEDC RV and CAMPING RULES RENTAL AGREEMENT

GUEST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

RV SITE # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RENT: \_\_\_\_\_  DAILY  WEEKLY  MONTHLY

*The above named guests agree to the following terms and conditions:*

1. Rent is payable to RV Park you are camping in. i.e. Requa, Cats, Village or Riverside.
2. Rent is due on the first day of your stay. Monthly Rent due on check-in day for the total month's rent. (no exceptions)
3. Dishonored funds will be charged a \$25.00 service fee
4. Boat docks and boat ramps are for the quest use only and are for quest convenience. **Use of these facilities is at your own risk**
5. YEDC RV Resorts are **not** responsible for any damage caused by quests, their children, pets, or visitors.
6. Park owners and management are not responsible for lost or stolen property.
7. Guests are responsible for payment **in advance** for all day up to their departure date.
8. Guests agree to abide by the Park Rules and agree that violation of these rules is cause for immediate eviction.

I have received and read the Park Rules \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

Agreed by quest \_\_\_\_\_

Driver License# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

# Klamath Pet Keepers seeks donations

Pet Keepers is a non-profit individually run organization.

The goal of Pet Keepers is to help keep Klamath free of stray and unwanted pets.

We have recently placed 6 animals, including 2 pet birds, in new homes. We are always looking for good homes for the local animals.

Pet Keepers cannot exist without assistance from the community. Feeding, vet bills, spay, neutering, and supplies for these animals is expensive.

We recently received \$80 from caring community members. Hair cutters and flea medicine was purchased for the animals.

Your help is needed. All donations are really appreciated. You can also call if you need a place for a pet you can no longer keep or if there is a stray that needs to be picked up.

***If you wish to make a donation, please call Mae at 707/482-0233. ✨***



## Yurok Tribe

Office: (707) 482-1350  
mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us  
www.yuroktribe.org

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- Prep Cook
- Server
- Steward
- Guest Service Attendant (assists with hotel front desk, PBX, Gift shop)
- Housekeeper/Engineer
- Human Resources Assistant
- Adventurers Club Lead Representative
- Adventurers Club Representative
- Security Officer
- Security Officer II
- Security Supervisor
- Slot Attendant
- Slot Floor Supervisor
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